

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Alienation and Liberation: Post War American Fiction
Status: Definitive
Code: **6029ENGLIS** (117976)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Ross Dawson	Y
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Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 24 **Total Delivered Hours:** 46

Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 194

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Online	12
Seminar	22
Tutorial	1

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Conceptual Analysis 1200 words	30	
Reflection	AS2	800 word online reflection	20	
Essay	AS3	2000 word essay	50	

Aims

To explore representations of alienation and liberation in a range of fictional texts produced in the United States 1943-1973

To analyze these concepts as they are expressed in relevant critical traditions

including marxism, existentialism, psychoanalysis, race, gender and suburbia. Develop skills of: conceptual thinking, oral and written articulation, and reflexivity about one's learning, through preparation for and participation in the seminar discussions.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review the key issues and concepts which structure the course: this would include consideration of selected facets of the concept of alienation;
- 2 Apply creative and critical skills to analyse a range of texts produced between 1943 and 1973;
- 3 Accept complete accountability for the provision of an appraisal detailing their own response to, and engagement with, the concerns of the module.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

ESSAY	1
REFLECTION	3
ESSAY	2

Outline Syllabus

Week 1: Alienation and Liberation: Theories and Contexts
Week 2: Existentialist approach Man with the Golden Arm
Week 3: Marxist approach Man with the Golden Arm
Week 4: Psychoanalytic approach Ballad of the Sad Cafe
Week 5: Suburbia: Cheever
Week 6: Suburbia: Revolutionary Road
Week 7: Institutional: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Week 8: Psychadelia: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Week 9: Black Liberation: Mumbo Jumbo
Week 10: Entropy: Play It As It Lays

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars, Blog participation, Written work

Notes

"The reign of freedom does not begin until the work imposed by necessity and external finality shall cease" Karl Marx

Through the introduction of selected fictional texts of the period and of various theoretical discourses about the concept of alienation, the module will explore representations of alienation relating to race, class and gender. Study of the fiction and theory will disclose the intersection of these representations with other forms of alienation relating to, for example: sexualities, the urban, suburban, or rural situation, architectonic and spatial relations, time and history, the family, childhood and adolescence, paranoia, desire and repression. These will be related to such issues of the period as accelerated consumerism, race relations, the Cold War and McCarthyism, the increased influence of the mass media, liberalism, and the possibility of oppositional positions to the dominant culture. The module will also unpack the possibilities of liberation, or "de-alienation" from these texts using a range of critical tools and cultural knowledge.